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Beitrag zur Pflanzenkunde der Naturvölker America's. A. F. CHAMBERLAIN. Verh. d. Berl. Anthropol. Ges., 1895, pp. 551-556.

A study of plants used as food and medicine by the Kootenay Indians, with etymological interpretations where possible.

The Food of Certain American Indians and the Methods of Preparing it. L. CARR. Proc. Am. Antiq. Soc. (1894), Vol. X (Worcester, 1895), pp. 155-190.

A valuable contribution to the study of food among primitive peoples, a subject of increasing importance in ethnology.

The Whip-poor-will as Named in American Languages. A. S. GATSCHE. Amer. Antiq., Vol. XVIII (1896), pp. 39-42.

In this brief but valuable article Dr. Gatschet presents a rare onomatological study of interest to the students of the psychology of language, especially of onomatopœia. Names of the bird are given from Algonkian, Iroquoian, Maskoki, Yuchi, Natchez, Siouan, Sahaptian and Zuni languages and dialects, and, whenever possible, etymologies are given. It is worth noting that among the Kayowé there is a children's name for the whip-poor-will, *pābi* = "younger brother."

The Mystery of the Name Pamunkey. W. W. TOOKER. Ibid., Vol. XVII (1895), pp. 289-293.

In this paper Mr. Tooker skillfully interprets for us the name *Pamunkey*, now designating a small tribe of Indians and a river of Virginia, but also in reality "a survival to our times of one of the reminders of an esoteric system which existed among the Powhatan tribes of Virginia at the commencement of the seventeenth century."

The Algonquian Appellatives of the Siouan Tribes of Virginia. W. W. TOOKER. Amer. Anthropol., Vol. VIII (1895), pp. 376-392.

Mr. Tooker treats with his accustomed *Sprachgefühl* and keen analysis the names which came to be given to the Siouan tribes of Virginia from the speech of another and distinct linguistic stock, with whom they came more or less into contact. Like others of Mr. Tooker's papers, this one also is a most welcome addition to the literature of the psychology of primitive languages.

III. MISCELLANEOUS.

Das Wesen des Humors. Von DR. JOSEPH MÜLLER. München, 1896.

Humor, the most complicated form of æsthetical perception, is, according to Müller, still an unsolved problem. It is not strange, when one considers the quality of the theories hitherto propounded. One reads with weariness, not unmixed with pity, metaphysical and "idealistic" theories of humor in which the finite and the infinite, the ideal and the divine, the sensual and the non-temporal, etc., are held to be constituent elements of all humor. It is too Ptolemaic, too theocentric, too adult- or anthropo-centric, if I may use such terms. An inductive study based on animal, children, youth, old age and the insane is needed and will doubtless soon appear.

Dr. Müller cites the various theories, all "made in Germany;" he has never heard of Herbert Spencer's view, and knows nothing of "barbarians" in general. Of the authors cited, Jean Paul makes humor to be the application of the finite to the infinite,

whereas its opposite, the sublime, is the application of the infinite to the finite. "Humor annihilates not the individual, but the finite through the contrast with the Idea." Vischer makes humor to be *Selbstverlachung*, and adopts Jean Paul's theory in general. "*Der Humor treibt immer Metaphysik.*" Ruge speaks of a "*Begnädigung der Welt durch Liebe*," and Lorms of a groundless optimism. Solger says that humor seeks in the most temporal and the most sensual the whole power and meaning of the divine, and Müller approves of the dictum. Lazarus speaks of the "*potenzirtes Nichtige*" in humor and makes it a conflict between the understanding and the feelings. Müller himself adds little or nothing to the better comprehension of the subject.

ARTHUR ALLIN.

Notice sur le Laboratoire de Psychologie de l'Université de Genève. Par Prof. TH. FLOURNOY. Genève, Librairie Ch. Eggemann & Cie., 1896.

This pamphlet is an elaboration of the notice written for the *Histoire de l'Université de Genève*, published under the auspices of *Société Académique* and the University Senate in connection with the National Swiss Exposition in 1896. It contains a brief history of the psychological laboratory at Geneva since its inception in 1891, a statement of its present resources as to equipment, books, periodicals, etc., including a full list of apparatus, a list of the publications already issued by the laboratory, and an epilogue containing arguments in justification of founding a special chair of experimental psychology at Geneva and its future possibilities in coördination with the other sciences. The record of the Geneva Laboratory under Prof. Flournoy's charge has been most creditable.

THEODATE L. SMITH.

Observations sur Quelques Types de Réaction Simple. Par TH. FLOURNOY. Genève, Librairie Ch. Eggemann & Cie., 1896.

This contribution to the psychology of reaction time, a pamphlet of forty-two pages, is a report of studies made in the Geneva Laboratory during the years 1892-96. The author does not enter into the controversy between the adherents of Lange's theory and the Leipzig school, represented in this country by Profs. Baldwin and Titchener, but proposes to indicate the various individual types of reaction which have been brought out with more or less clearness by the reaction measurements in the Geneva Laboratory. In the course of four years Prof. Flournoy has accumulated some 25,000 reaction times, taken upon seventy students of both sexes, and ranging from 2,000 to not less than fifty for one individual. The d'Arsonval chronometer, for which a great advantage in saving of time is claimed, was used in preference to the Hipp chronoscope for the majority of these measurements. The principal aim of the research was to observe the *influence and direction of attention* upon the quickness of reaction times, and the time measurements were taken in the form of comparative series, where this factor alone is varied, all other circumstances remaining the same. Two successive groups of twelve reactions each, executed under the guidance of a certain mental orientation, *i. e.*, sensorial, visual or motor attention, adopted by the subject at the beginning of each series, were taken, the groups being alternated to eliminate the slight effect of fatigue. The two groups were separated by an interval of a few seconds in order to allow the readjustment of attention by the subject. Only simple reactions were used, no reactions with choice being included in the report. Apart from mixed cases, the author finds among his subjects four distinct types, which he clas-